

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact
August 22, 2013

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Fall Factsheet #1, dated July 25, 2013

Stock Status

- Fall Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam during August 1-21 totals 41,960 adults. Adult Chinook passage is typically 50% complete by September 7. Counts remain strong.
- Steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam during July 1 and August 21 totals 151,155 fish. The majority of fish are Group A stock, as the Group B component is later-timed with passage beginning in mid-late August. Total passage is typically 50% complete by August 13.
- TAC met on August 19 to review the upriver summer steelhead return to Bonneville Dam. Steelhead passage is less than expected, and TAC downgraded the Group A component of the run from the preseason expectation of 291,000 fish to 212,000 fish. TAC will meet weekly to review salmonid stock status as the fall season progresses.

Early Fall Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- The preseason catch expectation for early fall fisheries was 38,800 adult Chinook, with 13,500 Chinook set aside for harvest through August 23, and the balance (25,300 fish) set aside for the last week of August. A total of 700 white sturgeon were allocated to the August portion and 300 white sturgeon were allocated to the late fall portion of the fall fishing season.

2013 Preseason Catch <u>Expectation</u> of Adult Fall Chinook in Non-Indian August Commercial Fisheries				
Date	Total	LRH	URB	BPH
Aug 11-16	1,970	420	1450	60
Aug 18-23	11,490	780	7,250	2,230
Aug 25-30	25,320	1,290	17,770	3,730
Early Fall	38,780	6%	68%	15%
<i>Proportion of overall catch</i>				

- Preseason modeling included six fishing periods during August 11-23 and three periods August 25-30. At the July 25 hearing the Compact adopted six periods scheduled during August 11-23.

- Catch for the fishing periods to date has gradually increased as expected, however catch remains higher than expected overall.

2013 Non-Indian Commercial Early Fall Harvest Data							
Date	Hours	Zones	Del.	Chinook	Coho	Sturgeon	
August 11-12	9	4-5	67	1,036	4	129	
August 13-14	9	4-5	75	3,180	5	48	
August 15-16	9	4-5	82	1,422	5	42	
Week 33 total				5,638	14	219	
August 18-19	9	4-5	123	4,111	3	131	
August 20-21	9	4-5	113	5,720	43	68	
August 22-23 (proj)	9	4-5	130	7,500	50	70	
Week 34 total				17,331	96	269	
Grand Total (actual and projected)				22,969	110	488	

- CWT data is complete for the August 11-16 fishing periods, but CWT data is not yet available for the remaining two periods. Based on the CWT data in hand, the proportion of LRH stock and URB stock is similar to expected.

- Based on actual and projected catch, an estimated 15,800 Chinook and 200 sturgeon remain available for harvest during August commercial fisheries.

<i>Recommendation: 2013 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Early Fall Fishery</i>		
Season:	9 PM Sunday August 25 to 6 AM Monday August 26	(9 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5. The deadline at the lower end of Zone 4 is defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore.	
Sanctuaries:	Washougal and Sandy Rivers as applicable.	
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 9" minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule NOT in effect, which means nets not authorized for this fishery may not be onboard. Lighted buoys required.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of 4 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) in the remaining openers. The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem fisheries only.	
Miscellaneous:	During August 1-31, sturgeon possession is prohibited while fishing gear is deployed in the portion of commercial Zone 5 that is upstream of Skamania Island (Navigation Marker 82 on the Oregon shore, westerly to the boundary marker on the Washington shore upstream of Fir Point). Only vessels in transit through the area may have sturgeon onboard.	
Additional Rules:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240	

- Catch estimates include 8,000 - 10,000 Chinook and 200 sturgeon.
- Late August is very volatile as Chinook abundance is steadily increasing. This volatility makes estimating catch difficult. Staff is recommending one fishing periods at this time and will review catch and potentially recommend a second period at the August 27 hearing.
- Staff has had a request from industry to begin fishing on Monday instead of Sunday night.
- Consistent with preseason planning, late fall commercial mainstem fisheries are scheduled to begin around September 15.

Future Meetings

- A Joint State hearing for is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 27 to review the ongoing Buoy 10 fishery.
- The Compact has reserved Thursday September 5 to review treaty Indian fisheries.